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GEOBALNEW LIGHTOF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 117, 8th Waning of Second Waso 1382 ME

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uesday, 11 August 2020

President honours Myanmar's 'biggest taxpayers' for 2018-2019 tax year



President U Win Myint speaks during the ceremony to honour taxpayers at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

OVERNMENT honoured the top taxpayers of the country for 2018-2019 tax year yesterday.

President U Win Myint at-

tended the ceremony held at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw, and presented awards to the outstanding taxpayers for income tax, commercial tax, and specific goods tax.

In delivering a speech at the ceremony, the President said: "The government annually issues the top 1,000 taxpayers to

promote tax awareness and tax culture; the government has adopted economic policies to bring about people-centred inclusive and sustainable development; the policies include laws, rules and regulations to protect the rights and property of the people by establishing a SEE PAGE-3

No new case of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 10 August, total figure remains at 360

Updated at 8 pm, 10 August 2020

Total Cases 360

New Case

Total Do Tally

6

covery Update on 10 August 2020 after two consecutive test

Total Recovery 312

New Recovery 0

Discharged from Hospital 308

New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 10 August 2020

New PUIs



Ministry of Health and Sports

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"People are the key"

Union Minister U Min Thu holds meeting with Self-Administered Division/Zones leaders



Union Minister U Min Thu discusses facilitation of administration process of the Self-Administered Division/Zones. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Union Minister for Office of Union Government U Min Thu yesterday held a meeting with chairpersons of leading body of the Self-Administered Division and Zones.

In the meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw, the Union Minister said that the meeting was aimed to help facilitate the administration process of the Self-Administered Division/Zones: Wa, Naga, Danu, Pa-O, Pa Laung and Kokang.

The meeting focused on giving rights and power of Collectors to the General Administrators of the Self-Administered Division/ Zones, matters related to the development of the areas, the promotion of ethnic rights, peace process, and national reconciliation.

The Union Minister pointed out that those tasks and processes are fundamental to building a future democratic federal Union.

After the speech of the Un-

ion Minister, the Director-General U Myint Than of the General Administration Department explained the roles and duties of his department, and the roles and duties of Collectors. Next, the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government U Htet Aung explained the reform processes of the General Administration Department. He also discussed the department's collaborative efforts in prevention, control and

treatment of the COVID-19.

Afterwards, the chairpersons of the leading body of the Self-Administered Division/Zones discussed matters related to the development of their areas.

Then, Deputy Minister U Tin Myint and U Hla Maw Oo made additional discussions.

In the afternoon, the Director-General U Zaw Htay of the Department of Union Peace Formation of the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor discussed matters related to the development of the Self-Administered Division/Zones, the promotion of ethnic rights, peace process and reconciliation. —MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Union Supreme Court sits on general civil appeal cases

THE Union Supreme Court passed judgements on five general civil appeal cases (writs) and heard other five general civil appeal cases (writs) yesterday.

Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo and Union Supreme Court Judges U Thar Htay and U Aung Zaw Thein led the judgements at Union Supreme Court room number 1. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Bar Council Announcement

7th Waning of Second Waso 1382 (10 August 2020)

Announcement of vote numbers secured by each candidate in Bar Council election

1. The Bar Council election has been held on 2 August 2020. In accordance with the Bar Council Election Rules and Regulations, the list of 11 elected members of Bar Council was announced on 4 August 2020.

2. Some advocates have requested to announce the number of votes secured by each candidate running in the Bar Council election. In taking account their request into consideration, the number of votes for each candidate is announced on the website of the Office of Union Attorney General at www.oag.gov.mm.

Dr Thida Oo Secretary Bar Council

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye visits IDP camps in An Township



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye presents cash assistance for IDPs in An Township on 10 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye visited IDP camps in An Township in the Rakhine State, and provided cash assistance for the IDPs yesterday

morning.

The Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, the Director General of the Department of Disaster Management, and top officials of the Rakhine State government, visited the IDP Camp 1 at the Township Indoor Stadium and the IDP Camp 2 at Pae Padon in the township, and said words of comfort to the Rakhine and Chin IDPs.

Then, the Union Minister and his entourage handed over K111,321,000 to the relevant officials to buy rice for a total of 4,132 IDPs staying at four temporary IDP camps and their relatives' homes in the township.

Then, the Department of Social Welfare, and the Department of Rehabilitation jointly gave K30,000 to each member of the vulnerable group (68 elderly people, 312 under-5 children, 27 disabled persons and 23 pregnant women) at the IDP camps. So, the total amount of the cash

assistance to the vulnerable group is K12,900,000. Then the Union Minister and his entourage handed over K2.4 million to the officials of the IDP Camp 1 and the IDP Camp 2 to build a total of 16 toilets in the camps.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and his entourage visited the Shukhintha Designated Land where the IDPs will be temporarily accommodated, and another designated land near Kyar Maung Village where the IDPs will be resettled. Next, the Union Minister discussed with the officials to aid the IDPs in accordance with the national strategy on the resettlement of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and closure of IDP camps.

During the meeting with the IDPs, the Union Minister

expressed his empathy for the IDPs who have been affected by both the armed conflicts and the COVID-19 crisis. He said that the government has implemented the Covid-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) as a special programme. The Union Minister also claimed that the government is giving higher priority to the Rakhine State in its humanitarian assistance programme. Moreover, the government will make arrangements for providing water to the temporary IDP camps, said the Union Minister.

Then, the Union Minister highlighted the importance of empathy, and made a wish that all citizens can enjoy peaceful lives as soon as possible.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

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2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOGRACY GENERAL ELECTION



The General Election will be held on 8 November 2020.

- Union Election Commission has announced the first edition of eligible voter lists at local offices of the commission in respective wards/village-tracts, in the villages from 25 July 2020 to 7 November 2020.
- If the name of any eligible voter is not included in the list, voter registration can be requested by filling in Form 3.
- Objection can be filed against any ineligible voter in the list by using Form 4.
- Correction for voter list can be requested by using Form 4 (c)
- Voters can cast their votes only if their names are included in the voters list.
- Cooperation is requested for at least one member of each family to check their names without fail to ensure a complete and correct voters list
- Check the voters lists not to lose voting rights by filling up discrepancies, deleting and making corrections.

2020 General Election Sunday, 8 November 2020 DAYS B 9

President honours Myanmar's 'biggest taxpayers' for 2018-2019 tax year



President U Win Myint (R) presents certificate of honour to U Aung Moe Kyaw, Co-Chairman of Myanma Grape and Beverages Company Ltd. that paid biggest income tax for 2018-2019 tax year in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

wastages," said the President.

He continued to say that his administration will work for the development of tax culture, which has disappeared for many main driving force for national development; the private sector development committee led by the Vice President is holding monthly meetings with the

... avoiding the burden of taxation is taken into consideration when efforts are being made to promote investments which is the main driving force for national development;

years, in line with democratic norms; the contribution of business tycoons and citizens play a crucial role in promoting tax payment culture. private sector to help them in solving their difficulties.

Moreover, the government is amending outdated tax laws, regulations and management

"As people have dutifully paid their taxes for state revenue, the government needs to use taxpayers' money carefully to benefit the public and to prevent wastages," ...

FROM PAGE-1

fair and beneficial tax system for increasing national revenue as it is necessary for the development of the country and for the functions of the administrative sector; instead of relying on natural resources and foreign loans; taxation is more appropriate for the stability of the macro-economy and economic development.



President U Win Myint (C) poses for a group photo together with businesspersons and officials from the Myanmar companies that paid biggest taxes for 2018-2019 tax year in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 August 2020. **PHOTO:MNA**

The President added that tax is the contribution of the people to the public spending for national development and that the tax is actually public property.

"As people have dutifully paid their taxes for state revenue, the government needs to use taxpayers' money carefully to benefit the public and to prevent The President said that avoiding the burden of taxation is taken into consideration when efforts are being made to promote investments which is the practices; developing a new tax management law and submitting the income tax law to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

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11 AUGUST 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

President honours Myanmar's 'biggest taxpayers' for 2018-2019 tax year

FROM PAGE-3

The President emphasized the need for honesty, authenticity, transparency, and accountability of all persons directly or indirectly concerned with the tax system for the development of tax culture in line with democratic norms.

The government is working for tax management reform in which tax is paid by the taxpayers themselves instead of being collected by the tax authorities; implementing tax management based on technology and introducing a pilot project for electronic tax filing and payment; tax reduction plans have been extended for recovery from economic impacts and unemployment due to COVID-19.

The government is not focusing only on earning revenue in adopting tax policies, but ensuring flexibility in the needs of people, situations and conditions; simplicity, fairness, accuracy, less cost and predictability are also considered in the tax system.

The economic development of a country could improve socioeconomic development, dignity and image of the country. The President expressed his appreciation for the tax payments of businesspersons although they have

said the government will provide assistance to both major businesses and other businesses of taxpayers to meet international standards, competitiveness in quality and ethical standards, and extended his good wishes for the progress and development of their businesses.

The government is not focusing only on earning revenue in adopting tax policies, but ensuring flexibility in the needs of people, situations and conditions; ...

some difficulties in doing their businesses; he also encouraged them to maintain this practice and urged other businesspersons to be dutiful in paying their taxes.

The President finally

The ceremony was attended by Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Min Thu, U Soe Win, U Thaung Tun, Dr Aung Thu, U Ohn Win, U Win Khaing, Dr Than Myint, U Han Zaw and officials.—MNA

Top Local Taxpayer Companies for 2018-2019 TY

Tax Categories	Companies	Award Receivers
Income tax	1. Europe & Asia Commercial Co.,Ltd.	U Sein Myint, Chairman
	2. Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited	U Aung Ye Win, Head of General Administration
	3. E-Lan Co.,Ltd.	Daw Thein Nyunt, Director
	4. International Beverages Trading Company Ltd.	Daw Mya Pwint Phyu, Director
	5. Myawaddy Bank	U Yu Lwin, Chief Executive Officer
	6. Co-operative Bank	U Khin Maung Aye, Chairman
	7. Kanbawza Bank Ltd.	U Aung Kyaw Myo, Deputy CEO
	8. Myanma Grape and Beverages Company Ltd.	U Aung Moe Kyaw, Co-Chairman
	9. Ayeyawady Bank Ltd.	U Zaw Zaw, Chairman
	10. Denko Trading Co.,Ltd.	Daw Saw Thu Wai, Director
Commercial Tax	1. Denko Trading Co.,Ltd.	U Chit Khaing, Chairman
	2. Kyaw San Co.,Ltd.	U Tin Aung Kyaw, Director
	3. PT Power Trading Co. Ltd	U Zin Min Aung, Director
	4. City Mart Holding Co.,Ltd.	Daw Win Win Tint, CEO
	5. Asia Energy Co.,Ltd.	U Thura Kyaw, Director

	6. International Beverages Trading Co.,Ltd.	Mya Pwint Phyu, Director
	7. Shwe Byain Phyu Co. Ltd	U Thein Win Zaw, Managing Director
	8. Heyday Energy Trading Co.,Ltd.	U Htet Khaing Win, Managing Director
	9. Max Energy Co.,Ltd.	U Zaw Zaw, Chairman
	10. Lluvia Limited	U Soe Tint, Director
Specific Goods Tax	1. Dagon Beverage Co. Ltd.	U Hla Min Thu, Administrative Director
	2. Royal Club Beverages Co. Ltd.	Daw Khin Lay Nwe, Director
	3. SMM Shwe Myanmar Beverages Co. Ltd.	U Sai Hlaing Bone Aung, Director
	4. Yaung Ni Distillery's Factory	U Kyaw Thein Lwin, Director
	5. Golden Oriental Leaf Co. Ltd.	Daw Myint Myint Win, Managing Director
	6. Victory Myanmar Group Co. Ltd.	U Zaw Win Swe, Chairman
	7. Central Base Productions	U Sai Hlyan (a) Htay Win, Director
	8. Asia Beverages Co. Ltd.	U Tun Win, Managing Director
	9. Lin Let Win Gems and Jewelry Co. Ltd.	U Tun Kyi, Managing Director
	10 Yadanar Kyal Co. Ltd.	U Kyaw Naing, Director

Top Foreign Taxpayer Private Companies for 2018-2019 TY

Tax Categories	Companies	Award Receivers
Income Tax	1. Moattama Gas Transportation Co.,Ltd.	U Soe Thaung Myint, Acting General Manager
	2. Telenor Myanmar Ltd.	Hans Martin Hoegh Henrichsen, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer
	3. Taninthayi Pipeline Company LLC (Myanmar Branch)	Daw Khin Moe Kyu, Finance Manager
	4. Myanmar Yang Tse Copper Ltd.	Mr Zhang Yupeng, Chairman
	5. Myanmar Brewery Ltd.	Daw May Sabei Win, CSV Director
Commercial Tax	1. Telenor Myanmar Ltd.	Daw Yin Yin Htay, Chief Business Officer
	2. Ooredoo Myanmar Ltd.	Daw Wine Ye Mon, General Accounting Senior Manager
	3. Myanmar Brewery Ltd.	U Kyaw Kyar, Chief Operating Officer
	4. Virginia Tobacco Co.,Ltd.	U Myint Oo, Deputy Managing Director
	5. Grand Royal Group International Co.,Ltd.	U Aung Moe Kyaw, Co-Chairman
Specific Goods Tax	1. Myanmar Brewery Ltd.	U Soe Kyaw Thu, Deputy Managing Director
	2. Virginia Tobacco Co.,Ltd.	U Myint Oo, Deputy Managing Director
	3. Grand Royal Group International Co.,Ltd.	U Aung Moe Kyaw, Co-Chairman
	4. Heineken Myanmar Ltd.	Daw Myat Phyu Thet, Corporate Affairs Director
	5. Myanmar Carlsberg Co.,Ltd.	Mr Christoph Varik, Managing Director

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Elections are the root for development of democracy.

NATIONAL 11 AUGUST 2020 THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



Only you can create your own happiness

In the lifetime of a person, one cannot say that five or six months is a long time. The reason she had to keep reminding frequently was that Myanmar was not a rich country and therefore had to exist based on spiritual strength. Existing based on spiritual energy means to exist based on discipline. That is why duty needs to be respected and discipline should be maintained. Each person needs to know how to live happily with contentment. Only you can create your own happiness.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's discussions with senior health officials on 30 June 2020)

JICM preliminary meeting held at NRPC in Nay Pyi Taw

THE first-day session of the Joint Implementing Coordination Meeting (JICM) preliminary meeting was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting discussed the proposals to be put forward to the 9th JICM meeting, the NCA Implementation Framework, relevant future plans and processes for post-2020 period, and relevant basic principles.

Representatives of the Government at the meeting were the NRPC Vice-Chairman U Tun Tun Oo (Attorney-General of the Union), Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Naung and Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Peace Commission Secretary Retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Pyone Cho (a) U Htay Win Aung, Peace Commission advisory board members U Hla Maung Shwe and U Moe Zaw Oo, and Director-General U Zaw Htav of the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor.

NCA Implementation Framework Coordination Group Leader Sao Sai Ngern, NCA Implementation Coordinator U Mvo

Win, members Pado Saw Ta Doh Moo, U Hla Htay, Saw Mra Yazar Lin, Dr Lian Hmung Sakhong, Salai Htalaw Hei, Saw Sein Win, Pado Saw L Kalusay, Saw Kyaw Nyunt, Kya Salmon, Nai Aung Ma Ngay, Khun Myint Tun and Dr Sai Oo represented the NCA-S EAOs.

During the meeting, the NRPC Vice-Chairman said that the 14-points for the NCA Implementation Framework were agreed in the previous seven coordination meetings between the Government and the NCA-S EAOs.

Eight main topics regarding future processes and implementation for post-2020 have also been agreed, and this JICM preliminary meeting has been focusing on discussions about related sub-topics.

The NRPC Vice-Chairman said that the two points for the basic principle of building the Union based on democracy and federal system were also agreed in the previous meetings, and the matters proposed by both sides would be settled in the two-day JICM preliminary meeting. The decisions made in the two-day preliminary meeting will need approval from the 9th JICM meeting to be held on 13 August.



Preliminary meeting of JICM in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 August. PHOTO: MNA

The NRPC Vice-Chairman also expressed thanks to all those who have been involved in the peace process. He pointed out that both sides have already agreed to implement the NCA through accountability and transparency to achieve lasting peace.

This two-day preliminary meeting also focuses on the Part III of the Union Accord, which is expected to be signed in the Union Peace Conference- 21st Century Panglong.

The NRPC Vice-Chairman concluded his speech by urging the attendees to have mutual understanding and respect in order

to support the upcoming fourth session of the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong.

Sao Sai Ngern, the NCA Implementation Framework Coordination Group Leader, reminded that the 8th JICM meeting held on 8 January this year focused on matters related to ceasefire, the NCA Implementation Framework, future processes and implementation for post-2020 period, the Part III of the Union Accord, plans and arrangements for the fourth session of the Union Peace Conference, and the plan to invite more EAOs in the peace process. Starting from early 2020, the coordination groups of both sides have regularly held discussions on matters related to implementation of the resolutions of the 8th JICM, and those meetings were fruitful, he said.

Sao Sai Ngern pointed out that the two-day preliminiary meeting is very important for the peace process and the citizens, and urged the attendees to make discussions and thorough preparations for the upcoming 9th JICM meeting to be held on 13 August. The JICM preliminary meeting will be continued on 11 August.—MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)



Director-General Dr Zaw Than Tun receives donations of TBEA Electrical and Powering Co.,

Ltd. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

China-based TBEA company donates masks to MoHS

CHINA-based TBEA **Electrical and Powering** Co., Ltd donated 150,000 masks worth K12 million to the Ministry of Health and Sports yesterday to control COVID-19 pandemic.

The official donation ceremony was held at the Department of Medical Research in Dagon Township, Yangon, at 11:30 am yesterday. During the ceremony, the Commercial Counsellor Mr Tan Shu Fu from Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, and the Director-General of Department of Medical Research Professor Dr Zaw Than Tun delivered speeches before the company's General Manager Mr Liu Zhi Fei explained the reason of the donation.

Then, Dr Zaw Than Tun received the masks presented by Mr Tan Shu Fu and Mr Liu Zhi Fei, and returned certificates of honour to them.-Min Thit (MNA) (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

24-day weaving intensive course to be conducted in Mandalay

IN a bid to aid unemployment situations amid the coronavirus crisis, a 24-day intensive course for weaving will be conducted on 17 August at the Saunders Weaving and Vocational Institute (SWVI) in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region.

The institute will provide trainees accommodation and K4,000 for food support per day. They need to have basic knowledge of weaving. The course

will offer advanced weaving programmes so that the trainees can take up their own businesses after that.

Additionally, the institute conducted two courses — traditional weaving and sewing machine training between 16 July and 8 August.

Those who completed basic elementary school attended the weaving course, while the sewing machine training course was offered to those who have the education of middle school level. People between the ages of 18 and 45 can take the courses. Only 10 trainees are accepted per course.

machine motor, dyeing cotton yarn and fabric printing and painting are included in the programmes.

The maintenance of sewing

The intensive course amid the COVID-19 crisis is aimed to help support SMEs, increase family income and create jobs, said Daw Tint Tint, Principal of Mandalay SWVI.

Moreover, the trainees will get further technical assistance and practical training. The courses are opened in line with COVID-19 health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.—Aung Thura

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



A returnee from China undergoes medical test at Chinshwehaw border crossing on 10 August. PHOTO: ZIN ZIN

10 Myanmar returnees from China arrive in Chinshwehaw border crossing

A total of 10 Myanmar nationals who returned from China came back home through Myanmar-China border in Chinshwehaw on 9 and 10 August.

The group included 7 males and 3 females — 3 from Ayeyawady Region and 7 from northern Shan State.

The Work Committee on

Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 in Chinshwehaw sent the returnees to their respective regions and states by arranging vehicles.

A total of 14,354 returnees have been sent back to their respective places via this route to date.—Zin Zin (IPRD)

(Translated by Aung Khin)

588 Myanmar nationals come back home via Myawady border bridge on 10 August

A total of 588 Myanmar nationals returned home from Thailand through No. 2 border bridge in Myawady Town, Kayin State, on 10 August.

Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Thant Zin Aung, Myawady District Administrative Office U Tay Zar Aung and local officials helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies. The

number of migrant workers who returned home from abroad through this border has been 62,543 until now.

The latest group of returnees included 352 males and 236 females from different regions and states.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Returnees from Thailand pass border checkpoints at No.2 Myawady border bridge on 10 August. HOTO: TEIN LIN AUNG

Hsin Kyone Fort near Innwa attract local travelers

HOLIDAY-MAKERS to the ancient city of Innwa in Mandalay also visit the historic Hsin Kyone Fort which is a viewpoint to enjoy the natural beauty of the Ayeyawady River.



Hsin Kyone Fort at ancient city of Innwa is a viewpoint for natural beauty of Ayeyawady River. FILE PHOTO

Along with the rising tide of the river lending a change of scenery, visitors could also view the city of Hsin Kyone on the opposite bank from the fort. The stronghold contains history dating back to the late Konbaung Dynasty as the Kinwun Mingyi and his delegation brought back their experience of western architecture during their visits abroad to construct this fort.

Together with Hsin Kyone, Minhla Fort, Gway Chaung Fort, Tha Pyay Tan Fort and Ahsaykhan Fort were all modeled after the forts in Portsmouth, England, that faced the open

The square-shaped Hsin Kyone Fort was named after the place it was constructed on back in 1874 and has three layers of walls. The outermost wall measures 355 feet around the fort and 36 feet high. The second innermost wall is 293 feet around with a space of 31 feet between the two walls filled with a moat. The innermost wall is 200 feet around and there is a bridge to cross the moat on the east side of the fort.

The fort and its surrounding continue to attract visitors who come to admire its history, architecture and the river it neighbours.—Nwe Nadi, Myitnge

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar exports 100,000 tonnes black beans, falling short of target to India

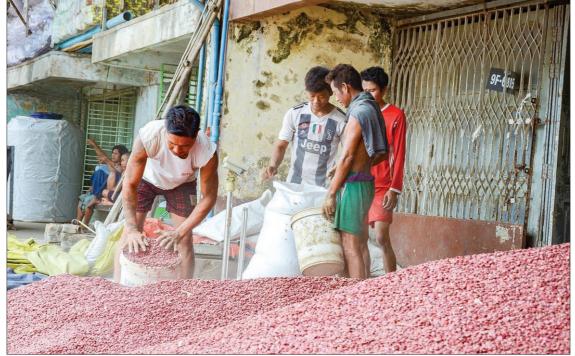
By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR can export about 100,000 tonnes of black beans out of 400,000 tonnes to India by August-end deadline, said Chair U Min Ko Oo of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

India rapidly changed the import period of black bean to three months by August-end 2020 from the earlier set deadline of March 2021, as per their official notice.

Myanmar can ship about 100,000 tonnes as India suddenly narrowed the import deadline for the entire quota of 400,000 tonnes to a shorter period.

"It is late that India's companies have been granted import licence. If the deadline is Aprilend, the country can ship only 20-25 per cent of quota (approximately 80,000-100,000 tonnes)," he noted.



India narrowed down import deadline of beans and pulses, affecting Myanmar market. **PHOTO: PHOE**

With the changes in India's policy on bean importation, Myanmar still falls short of the target. The growers have already sold out the beans and they are in the hands of traders. They have stockpiled around 200,000-250,000 tonnes of black beans, the association stated.

Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association has asked India's Embassy to Myanmar and the Ministry of Commerce to extend the deadline for black bean import as the deadline is August-end.

"Earlier, the import quota of 400,000 tonnes of black beans was set for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. Later, they narrowed the deadline by August-end. However, we will continue appealing for the deadline extension", MPBSSMA Chair said.

At present, the prices of the black bean are remained unchanged at around K942,500 per tonne, while pigeon peas are priced K803,500 per tonne, as per the market's data.

Myanmar is the top producing country of black bean that India demands. Besides Myanmar, Australia and Africa grow other kinds of peas such as pigeon peas, green grams and yellow peas, the association stated.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Mandalay to store over 1,400 tonnes of palm oil for state reserve



Emergency palm oil is stockpiled in Natogyi to prevent shortage of the food for the public. **PHOTO: THAN AUNG ZAW(IPRD)**

A TOTAL of 1,436 tonnes for the state oil reserve are to be stored in the warehouses of Mandalay, according to the regional Department of Consumer Affairs.

"The townships have been selected for the storage of oil after checking the security of warehouses in the region. The oil reserve scheme is for emergency case during the coronavirus pandemic. Therefore, the state is buying 12,000 tonnes of oil in cooperation with the relevant departments, oil millers and traders. Mandalay is allotted 1,436 tonnes of oil reserves," said the head of regional Department of Consumer Affairs.

The stadium in Natogyi Township has received about 29 tonnes (1,798 oil containers) out of 42 tonnes apportioned to the town so far. The supervision units for the storage of emergency oil reserve are formed in the respective townships and districts of Mandalay regions.

In order to ensure the self-sufficiency during the COV-ID-19 pandemic, the government planned to spend K38 billion to purchase foodstuff (50,000 tonnes of rice and 12,000 tonnes of palm oil), said Dr Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce. The state's emergency rice and oil reserve is to keep the price stable in the domestic market, lessen the worries of the consumers, offer the emergency foodstuff to the people at a much fairer price, ensure food security to the people when a natural disaster occurs, support ASEAN Emergency Rice Reserve and aid the victims in the time of adversity.

Myanmar has purchased an adequate amount of rice for the national reserve and the purchase has temporarily halted, according to the Department of Consumer Affairs, under the Ministry of Commerce. —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

CMP garment exports worth \$3.7 bln in 10 months

EXPORTS of garments manufactured under the cut-makepack (CMP) system were valued US\$3.7 billion in the period between 1 October and July-end in the current financial year 2019-2020, according to the data from the Ministry of Commerce.

The export figures reflect a decrease of \$60 million as against a-period ago.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in CMP garments and textiles, which contribute to the country's GDP to some extent.

The garment sector is among the prioritized sectors driving up exports. The CMP garment industry has emerged as a promising one, with preferential trade from Western countries.

The majority of Myanmar's garment factories operate under the CMP system, and those engaged in this industry are striving to transform CMP into the free-on-board (FoB) system, according to the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association.

At present, some CMP garment factories have shut down on the reason for the lack of raw materials due to

the coronavirus negative impacts, leaving thousands of workers unemployed.

The labour-intensive enterprises are badly battered by the coronavirus impacts, said an official of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

However, foreign direct investments flow into many types of businesses including the garment enterprises. The foreign investors are not bothered by the disputes between employers and employees and the closure of some CMP businesses during the mean times.

Of the investment proposals, the manufacturing and labour-intensive businesses are prioritized by the commission.

The CMP garment sector which contributes to 30 per cent of Myanmar's export sector is struggling because of the cancellation of order from the European countries and suspension of trading by western countries amid the pandemic. It can harm the export sector to a certain extent, the businesspersons pointed out

The export value of CMP garments was only \$850 million in the 2015-2016 financial year, but it has tripled over the last two FYs. In the

2016-2017FY, about \$2 billion was earned from exports of CMP garments. The figure increased to an estimated \$2.5 billion in the 2017-2018FY and \$2.2 billion in the 2018 mini-budget period (from April to September). It tremendously grew to \$4.6 billion in the 2018-2019FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar mainly exports CMP garments to markets in Japan and Europe, along with the Republic of Korea, China, and the US. With demand from foreign trade partners growing, imports of CMP raw materials are rising year by year.

Since an outbreak like COVID-19 might happen in the future it is necessary to prepare for a sufficient supply of raw materials. The public and private sectors will cooperate in setting up the supply chain on our sources, including weaving, knitting, dyeing, and sewing factories.

The MGMA has more than 500 members, and garment factories in Myanmar, employing more than 500,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in countries with inexpensive labour, such as Myanmar. —Ko Htet

 $(Translated\ by\ Ei\ Myat\ Mon)$

up till 8 August.

of the President as of 8 August.

President's Office continues

announcement of illegal drug

arrests, seizures action on tip-offs

THE Office of the President has issued Press Release 29/2020

yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs

arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking

to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 12

August issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar. — GNLM

Rebalance workload on health system by providing helpful resources

TITH the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, all medical professionals have experienced an increased workload

They are taking an enormous personal risk, for themselves and their families, in caring for the sick and enforcing the 21-day quarantine among those who returned from foreign countries.

In this time of crisis, local health and administrative authorities are working on the frontline without days off, and all people are requested to understand that they are performing their duty

The National Health Laboratory (Yangon) is one of the departments which has unexpectedly seen an increased workload

Thanks to the cooperation of the NHL (Yangon), the central

The Ministry of Health and Sports is obliged to ease the workload on their shoulders by fulfilling their requirements, which can help

to relieve stress

workers to have

a more relaxed

environment.

and allow the

health authority for infectious diseases and regional and state public health and treatment departments, our country will be able to contain the coronavirus infection. With continuous cooperation between us, we can put our country on its current success trajectory to contain the COV-ID-19 disease The Ministry of Health

and Sports is obliged to ease the workload on their shoulders by fulfilling their requirements, which can help to relieve stress and allow the workers to have a more relaxed environment.

Being the country's main laboratory, the NHL (Yangon) must be upgraded and its organizational set-up expanded in efforts to help the professionals work smart in a relaxed environment.

It is worth noting that plans are underway to provide COVID-19 tests in 26 district-towns in August as part of a plan for expansion of COVID-19 laboratories in the country. We welcome this step as

it would share the burden of the NHL (Yangon) So far, over 130,000 COVID-19 tests have been carried out until

7th August since the outbreak in Myanmar.

As we are not out of the woods yet, our people are advised to help our health professionals and workers, who remain at the frontlines of battling the pandemic, by following the health guidelines.

When misunderstanding and disagreements occur between health workers, administrative authorities and the people, everyone should solve their problems through negotiation, as we all are working together for the same goal of overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

During this stressful time, it is important for health systems and organizations to create an infrastructure with resources that support professionals, physicians, nurses and health care team members.

The most important thing is to be patient with them. Be nice to them. And remember, they're under stress, too.

The Matriculation Examination Results

HE Matriculation examination results are out and so are the criticisms. Objectively speaking the Matriculation system is necessary as a gauge to find out who has attained a level of education suited to pursue higher education in Myanmar Universities and Colleges. It's also the least level of education required by many employers for entry into an occupation where the skills of reading, writing and making simple calculations are a necessity.

Of course considering the number of candidates who took the examination (about ten lakhs) and their dispersal all over the country, setting up examination centres and conducting written examinations to assess the level of learning is probably the best way in the context of our country's education system. It's quite a "big undertaking" though!

The objective assessment of level of learning is rather difficult to make in the written examination system. If not designed to bring out the learning and understanding of the subject, it may very well be reduced to assessing the level of memorising the learning content. The Examination Board has been trying to change to questions



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The results of 2020 Myanamr Matric Exam were announced at the exam centres concerned nationwide on 10 August. PHOTO: MNA

which assess learning instead of memorizing. But of course all the "nitty-gritty of learning" such as memorizing "the Numerals", " the Alphabets," "Multiplication Tables", "Terminology", "Formulae", "Dates of Historical Events" and so on can't obviously be done away with unless we are ready to enslave ourselves to our "laptops" and the internet. The setting of examination questions

are of course dependent on the "Curriculum" and "Teaching Methods" as well. Sadly both can't be changed easily. It will take some time to change both the process of "Teaching" and "Assessment" both of which are now being undertaken at the initiative of the MOE.

About the percentage of "passes", it is roughly 25% to 32%, the higher figure is for the

large cities and towns and the lower figure for the "districts". That's not surprising as the schools and "Learning Delivery Systems", are much better in the larger cities and towns than in the "districts". The pass figures indicate that about two lakhs students are eligible to attend higher education facilities which offer degree courses, particularly those seeking admission

curriculum throughout August,

ities" regulated by the Ministry of Education. The private sector degree awarding Universities and Colleges either resorts to the Matriculation results or have their own entry requirements. Out of the two lakhs, hard-

into the "higher education facil-

ly half can get admission to the Government universities and colleges of their choice as "day students". A large proportion of the matriculates become students of the MOEs "Distance University". They seek employment if they can while "attending" the Distance University cours-

However many are satisfied with being Matriculated as it is a "formidable" hurdle to overcome and they just join the family enterprise instead of pursuing higher education.

Quite a number of the "matriculates" enter the public sector technical and vocational education stream. Many seek vocational training in the Non-formal education sector. These include the various skilled workers and technician training facilities of the various ministries or the private sector schools and training

About the "failures"; not everyone can pass the Matricu-

lation at the first attempt. Hence a large proportion of the failures would be making preparations to appear for the examination the following year. If, as is being heard, the failures would be given "certificates of completion" it would help them seek entry into vocational training schools or institutions where the entry requirement is below matriculation pass level. They could also seek employment where the entry requirement may similarly be "up to Matriculation level".

By Lokethar

Anyway, we should try to live with the Matriculation system until and unless we can find a better one. Perhaps with the rapid acceptance of "online learning" it may be that we could, sometime in the future when practically more students have access to the Internet, combine physical attendance at "schools" with "home learning" over the internet. That way we would also reduce the number of hours of attendance at schools and hence increase the number of students they can take in.

With charity to all and malice

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 10 August 2020) BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andamar Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 11 Augus 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Nav Pvi Taw, Mandalay and Magway regions, fairly widespread in Shan and Rakhine states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood

of isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions

Kachin, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%). STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)mph. Wave height will be

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Ayeyawady Region, Rakhine, Kayin and

about (6 – 9) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 August 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 August 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 August 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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update, the foreign ministry put Bulgaria's Blagoevgrad, Dobritch and Black Sea tourist hotspot Varna on its list of places where infections were rising rapidly.

places from Saturday.

- Arges, Bihor, Buzau, Neamt, Ialomita, Mehedinti and Timis were also added. **US job gains slow**

The US economy created 1.8 million new jobs in July, down

People wearing face masks walk down a shopping street in the Las Delicias neighbourhood of Zaragoza in northeastern Spain on 10 August 2020. Spain has added 19,405 new coronavirus cases in the past week, but the health ministry says the country is not entering a second wave of the

in June, showing a key element of any recovery slowing as the

cases and deaths. —AFP

Coronavirus: latest global developments

PARIS (France) — Here are the latest developments in the coronavirus crisis:

Nearly 722,000 deaths

The coronavirus pandemic has now claimed 721,902 lives since December when it first surfaced in China, according to a global tally compiled by AFP at 1100 GMT Saturday.

There have been nearly 19.5 million cases officially recorded in 196 countries and territories, with 11.5 million classed as recovered.

The United States is the country with the highest death toll at 161.358, followed by Brazil with 99,572 dead, Mexico 51,311, Britain 46,511 and India 42,518. **Latin America tops deaths**

Latin America plus the Caribbean is now the region with the worst combined toll, counting 215,859 deaths compared to **Masks compulsory in Paris**

Europe's 212,794

Brazil second to the US, has just under 100,000 deaths caused by the virus.

India meanwhile has chalked up some two million cases, with Africa on one million.

Turkmenistan agrees to WHO

Turkmenistan, which officially has no coronavirus cases, has agreed to let the World Health Organization (WHO) carry out independent sampling of virus tests after it expressed "serious concern" over rising pneumonia

A WHO mission visited the secretive gas-rich Central Asian state last month and advised it to adopt measures including contact tracing "as if COVID-19 were already circulating".

Wearing a mask will be compulsory in parts of Paris and its wider region from Monday to combat a rise in coronavirus infections in and around the French capital, the police say.

The mask will be obligatory for all those aged 11 and over from 8:00 am (0600 GMT) Monday "in certain very crowded zones", the police said in a statement Saturday, without yet detailing which areas are affected.

Gaza children return to school Hundreds of thousands of

children return to school in Gaza after a five-month suspension aimed at reining in the spread of the novel coronavirus in the crowded Palestinian territory.

Ziyad Thabit, undersecretary of the education ministry in the Islamist Hamas-ruled enclave, says pupils will follow a remedial

with classes limited to four a day. Germany expands virus risk Germany has added several areas of Bulgaria and Romania to a list of places considered a high risk for coronavirus infections, requiring compulsory tests for travellers returning from those In its latest travel warning

Seven places in Romania pandemic. **PHOTO:AFP**

sharply from 4.8 million reported country sees rising coronavirus

Trade Mark Ads



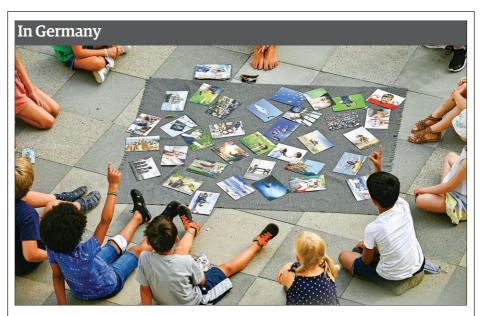
Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson poses with his arms out-stretched in a classroom as he visits St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Upminster, east London, on 10 August 2020 to see preparedness plans implemented ahead of the start of the new school year as a response to the novel coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: AFP



A Palestinian teacher addresses high school students as they return to class for the new academic year while implementing protective measures amid the COVID-19 pandemic in the West Bank city of Hebron, on 10 August 2020, after the disruption of studies since March due to the virus. PHOTO: AFP



Pupils are seen playing in the school yard at the Technical and Commercial Institute (ITC), in Kinshasa on 10 August 2020, upon the resumption of classes after the COVID-19 coronavirus lockdown. PHOTO: AFP



Students take part in an outdoor class at the Carl Orff primary school in west Berlin on 10 August 2020, as school resumed after the summer break in Berlin and several other German states amid a Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. In the German capital, thousands of children return to school after the summer break, sporting masks which are compulsory in common areas like school courtyards. Schools in some other regions of Germany also reopen, under differing rules on masks. PHOTO: AFP

Gaza children return to school despite virus fears



A clown hired by a local kindergarten instructs children how to wear a face mask during an awareness session about COVID-19 coronavirus disease at the premises in Gaza City on 10 August 2020, as education facilities in the Palestinian enclave reopened for the new 2020-2021 academic year following an easing of pandemic restrictions. PHOTO: AFP

GAZA CITY — Hundreds of thousands of children returned to school in Gaza Saturday after a five-month suspension aimed at reining in the spread of the novel coronavirus in the crowded Palestinian territory.

Ziyad Thabit, undersecretary of the education ministry in the Islamist Hamas-ruled enclave, said pupils would follow a remedial curriculum throughout August and classes would be limited to four a day.

"The ministry has prepared a plan based on various scenarios for dealing with the school year," he said.

The United Nations agency for Palestinians, UNRWA, which provides education to hundreds of thousands of children in Gaza, said over 285,000 pupils had returned to its 277 schools.

In a statement, it said it has "put in place preventative measures such as providing all the necessary materials to sanitize schools" and training staff on how to use sanitation materials effectively.

It said it would cancel morning assemblies and keep children in classrooms during breaks to avoid too many pupils gathering in one place at a time.

"The measures will be reviewed once a week and improved as necessary," UNRWA said.

Around a million people live in Gaza, many of them in poverty and a third of them refugees. The territory has been under Israeli blockade since 2007.

Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry has reported 78 cases of the COVID-19 illness, with one death.—AFP ■

Captive beluga whales released into Iceland sea sanctuary

REYKJAVIK (Iceland) — Two beluga whales from a Shanghai aquarium have returned to the sea in an Icelandic sanctuary, conservationists said Monday, expressing hopes of creating a model for rehoming some 300 belugas currently in captivity.

Little White and Little Grey, two 13-year-old females, left behind their previous lives entertaining visitors at the Changfeng Ocean World in June 2019 when they were flown to Iceland's Klettsvik Bay in the Westman Islands, in specially tailored containers.

On Friday, they were moved from their landbased facility to care pools in the sea at Klettsvik Bay -- the first time the two belugas have been in the sea since they were taken from a Russian whale research centre in 2011, the conservation charity Sea Life Trust said in a statement on Monday.

They will stay in the care pools "for a few weeks" before they are released into the bigger sanctuary, a 32,000-square-metre (344,445-square-foot) seapen that will become their home, organizers said.



A young beluga whale pokes its melon-shaped head out of the waters of the White Sea near the Actic Circle off of the Solovetsky Islands on 10 July 2008. PHOTO: AFP

Little Grey and Little White "will need a short period of time to acclimatize to their new natural environment and all the outdoor elements before they are released into the wider sanctuary in Klettsvik Bay," the statement

After having been cared for by humans for so many years, it is unlikely the belugas would

survive in the wild.

The pen is thus sealed off by nets that still allow sea life, such as fish, to swim through.

'Ambassadors'

Andy Bool, the head of Sea Life Trust, said the belugas' release "was as smooth as we had hoped and planned for."

"We are carefully monitoring

Little Grey and Little White with our expert care team and veteri-

Bool said the whales were "ambassadors for the 300 other belugas that are in human care across the world."

narians," he said.

"We hope to show that Little White and Little Grey thrive in this bay, and we're conducting a research study ... that will hopefully show that there's a welfare benefit to being in a natural environment like this.

"We hope that can then persuade others that maybe their beluga whales might be better off in a different environment," Bool said.

Ahead of their sea transfer, the whales were trained to hold their breath longer, become physically stronger to cope with tides and currents, and put on blubber to help them cope with colder water temperatures.

The whales each weigh 900 kilogrammes (2,000 pounds) and measure four metres (13 feet).

Originally from Russian Arctic waters, it is thought they were two or three years old when captured.

Belugas typically live for 40 to 60 years. According to Sea Life Trust, Klettsvik Bay is the world's first open water beluga sanctuary.

Klettsvik is also where Keiko. the killer whale in the 1993 film "Free Willy", was flown in 1998. The orca was fully released in 2002 but did not manage to adapt to life in the wild and died 18 months later in a Norwegian fjord.—AFP ■

Mauritius races to clean up oil as ship leaking fuel breaks up

PORT LOUIS (Mauritius) — Salvage crews raced against time Monday to prevent a second disastrous oil spill off the picture-perfect coastline of Mauritius, with a damaged tanker carrying thousands of tonnes of fuel at risk of splitting apart.

The bulk carrier MV Wakashio ran aground on July 25 with 4,000 tonnes of fuel aboard and began seeping oil last week, staining coral reefs, mangrove forests and tranquil lagoons in

an unprecedented environmental catastrophe for the archipelago nation. More than 1,000 tonnes has already oozed from the ship, its Japanese operator says, causing untold ecological damage to protected marine parks and fishing grounds that form the backbone of Mauritius' economy.

Fuel was being airlifted Monday by helicopter to the shore, but efforts to pump more from the hold were being thwarted by rough seas and strong winds.



People scoop leaked oil from the vessel MV Wakashio, belonging to a Japanese company but Panamanian-flagged, that ran aground and caused oil leakage near Blue bay Marine Park in southeast Mauritius on 9 August 2020. PHOTO: AFP

The weather, which is also fanning the oil slick further up the coast, is not forecast to improve until evening. Some fuel has been removed but 2,500 tonnes still remains aboard, said Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth, who warned cracks in the hull were worsening, and there was a very real chance the boat could split.

"We are in an advanced fracturing process. The bulk carrier does not have much time ahead of it," said one scientist working on the emergency effort, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Divers have reported fresh cracks in the hull, while creaking sounds from the vessel could be heard from the southeast shore, where a major clean-up operation is underway to remove treacly sludge coating miles of Mauritius' unspoiled coastline.

Japan on Monday dispatched a six-member team, including members of its coast guard, to assist. A French naval vessel with technical advisers aboard arrived Sunday from nearby Reunion, a French Indian Ocean island.

Italy resort lifts alert on melting glacier threat

ROME (Italy) — An Italian Alpine resort on Sunday lifted a state of alert declared last week over fears that a chunk of glacier on the Mont Blanc mountain range might crash down on

Around 15 people who were evacuated can now return to their homes in Courmayeur and traffic in the Cap Ferret valley is permitted again, said a statement from town officials.

Climate change has been increasingly melting the world's glaciers, creating a new danger for the town of Courmayeur, a resort community in Italy's Aosta Valley region, near the French border.

The town was put on high alert on Wednesday as a block of ice estimated at about 500,000 cubic metres -- the size of the Milan cathedral, one official said -- from the Planpincieux glacier risked falling and threatening homes. But on Sunday, town officials announced that all security measures had been lifted.

Some locals were dismissive of the closure, and said it further hit a tourism season already affected by the coronavirus measures.

But the mayor's office said again on Sunday: "The evacuation was necessary and inevitable because of the glacier risk."

While regretting what it said was the alarmist tone of some news coverage, officials insisted that the threat to the town had been real.

During a recent helicopter flypast, an AFP reporter saw a gaping chasm on the lower part of the Planpincieux, from which two cascades of water flowed towards the valley, as it hung from the mountainside like a gigantic block of grey polystyrene.

In September and October last year, the Planpincieux glacier also threatened a partial collapse, after which extra surveillance measures were put in place. A study last year by Swiss scientists found that Alpine glaciers could shrink between 65 and 90 percent this century, depending on how effectively the world can curb greenhouse gas emissions.—AFP ■

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Germany bristles at US sanctions threat over Russia pipeline



German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas is seen at a press conference on 21 July 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

BERLIN (Germany) — German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Monday he had expressed "displeasure" to his US counterpart Mike Pompeo about Washington's threat of sanctions against a German port over a gas pipeline from Russia.

Speaking in Berlin as transatlantic tensions spike, Maas was asked by a reporter about a letter last week from three US senators, which pledged tough sanctions against the operators of a key German port involved in the construction of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

"I mentioned it in a telephone call with (Secretary of State) Mike Pompeo yesterday and expressed my surprise and displeasure," he said.

Nord Stream 2, a 10 billion-euro (\$11 billion) pipeline near completion beneath the Baltic Sea, is set to double Russian natural gas shipments to Germany, the EU's largest economy.

US President Donald Trump last year signed legislation targeting contractors working on Nord Stream 2 and another Russian gas project, TurkStream, which goes through the Black Sea.

But while those sanctions focused on technical assistance, the separate Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act lays out harsh measures that can include severing access to the US financial system Pompeo announced guidelines last month stipulating that German companies could suffer sanctions even for small investments in the project.

Germany had voiced anger over the earlier sanctions law, saying that it interfered in its internal affairs.

But Ukraine, Poland and Baltic states fear that Nord Stream 2 will further embolden Russian President Vladimir Putin by giving Moscow more control over crucial energy flows.

Germany, despite political differences with Russia, sees Nord Stream 2 as ensuring a more stable and cleaner source of energy as it pivots away from coal and nuclear power.

Berlin is a longstanding ally of the United States, but Trump has tense relations with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, once berating her as "captive" to Russia

The Sassnitz port is located in Merkel's electoral district, which German media interpreted as a personal affront to the veteran leader.

Meanwhile Trump recently approved plans to pull 9,500 US troops from Germany, accusing Berlin of treating the United States unfairly on trade while not paying enough as a NATO ally for defence.—AFP

Algerian journalist who covered protests handed 3 year jail term

ALGIERS (Algeria) — Algerian journalist Khaled Drareni received a three-year prison term Monday in a trial rights groups have called a test of press freedom in a country recently rocked by anti-government protests.

"It's a very heavy verdict for Khaled Drareni. We are surprised, the case is hollow," lawyer and president of the Algerian League for Human Rights Nouredine Benissad told AFP.

Drareni, 40, editor of the Casbah Tribune news site and correspondent for French-language channel TV5 Monde, was arrested on March 29 on charges of "inciting an unarmed gathering" and "endangering national unity" after covering demonstrations by the "Hirak" protest movement.

The Hirak protests last year swept ailing president Abdelaziz Bouteflika from power but continued afterwards, demanding the ouster of the entire state apparatus, reviled by many Algerians as inept and corrupt. —AFP

Thai pro-democracy rally attracts thousands as discontent swells

PATHUM THANI (Thailand) — Thousands of people from all walks of Thai society came out in force Monday to an anti-government protest, the largest ever show of dissent targeting premier Prayut Chan-O-Cha's administration after weeks of rallies.

Waving rainbow flags, acerbic signs and posters of missing pro-democracy activists, the demonstrators descended in waves to Thammasat University in the outer edges of Bangkok as the sun set.

The robust attendance comes after weeks of near-daily student-led protests denouncing Prayut's military-aligned administration.

Over the weekend, two activists were arrested under charges of sedition -- and then released on bail -- for their alleged role in a massive July 18 rally.

Organizers on Monday reiterated demands for a rewrite to a 2017 constitution, the parliament's dissolution, and called for the government to "stop threatening the people".

The protest drew a diverse crowd from the LGBTQI community, young high schoolers and elderly pro-democracy supporters.

"Us seniors must support the students," said a 70-yearold woman who declined to be named. "We must fight for our sons, daughters, nephews and nieces."

The kingdom has long been locked in a cycle of violent street protests and coups by a putsch-happy army.

Demonstrators regard former army chief Prayut, who led the 2014 coup, as a remnant of Thailand's junta legacy as his premiership was ushered in under a military-scripted charter in last year's poll.

The pandemic has seized up Thailand's economy, leaving millions jobless and angry at the inequalities of a society perceived to favour the kingdom's elite establishment.

"No more fake democracy," read a sign at the demonstration, which drew around 4,000 by nightfall, according to an AFP estimate.

"This is the right time to send our voices to the government to let them know that we've had enough," said one university student, declining to be named.

Prayut has vowed to hold public forums with young people.

But army chief Apirat Kongsompong -- an arch-royalist who in the past has angrily ranted about pro-democracy figures -- called "hatred of the nation" an incurable disease.

The new crop of protesters have waded into sensitive territory by calling for reforms to the draconian royal defamation law, which protects the powerful, super-rich King Maha Vajiralongkorn.

Earlier Monday, a group of royalist supporters marched to parliament to counter a pro-democracy rally where protesters were burning models of army tanks and the constitution.

—AFP



Demonstrators hold portraits of the Thai royal family during a progovernment and pro-monarchy rally demanding the protection of the monarchy outside the Parliament building in Bangkok on 10 August 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

China inflation edges up on the back of food prices

BEIJING (China) — China's consumer inflation edged up in July, official data showed Monday, partly because of rising food prices from flood-related disruptions and as the country recovers from the coronavirus outbreak.

The consumer price index (CPI), a key gauge of retail inflation, had been pushed up over the past year by livestock prices after China's pig herds were ravaged by African swine fever, with the COVID-19 outbreak later hitting supply chains.

Consumer inflation has been easing since January but ticked up again in recent months, with the CPI hitting 2.7 per cent last month, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), slightly better than forecasts in a Bloomberg News poll of analysts.

NBS senior statis-

tician Dong Lijuan said Monday that food prices rose 13.2 per cent from a year ago, nudging the CPI up -- with pork prices climbing 85.7 per cent.

"With the gradual recovery of catering services, demand for pork continued to increase," said Dong, adding that this was accompanied by floods in many areas across the country, which hit the transportation of live pigs.

Prices of vegetables rose also, affected by "unfavourable weather", according to Dong.

Julian E v ans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said "floods that have swept across China since late June appear to have disrupted supply chains and production in the Yangtze River Delta, where around half of China's agricultural production takes place".

But Nomura chief Chi-



A customer buys vegetables at a supermarket in Handan in China's northern Hebei province on 10 August 2020. China's consumer inflation edged up in July, official data showed on August 10, partly because of rising food prices from flood-related disruptions and as the country recovers from the coronavirus outbreak. **PHOTO: AFP**

na economist Lu Ting told AFP he expects the CPI "to resume its downtrend soon in coming months", with the temporary disruptions fading.

In a sign of the weakness outside the food sector, core inflation, which strips out food and energy costs, came in at a ten-year low of 0.5 per cent.

Meanwhile, the producer price index (PPI) fell 2.4 per cent from a year ago in July, better than the three percent drop the month before.

The reading -- which measures the cost of goods at the factory gate -- was also better than the 2.5 per cent drop forecast by analysts.

Factory gate prices had been dragged by the pandemic fallout but

started rising again in June, with analysts noting a recovery in industrial demand

China is working to bounce back from a historic economic contraction in the first quarter caused by the virus, which had shut down most activity in the country.

Evans-Pritchard said: "The key driver continues to be the rebound in commodity prices, with the oil and metal processing sectors seeing the fastest rises in output price."

"This is consistent with broader evidence of a stimulus-led recovery in construction and industrial activity," he added.

He noted a further ramp-up in fiscal stimulus should continue to shore up infrastructure spending in the coming months, and support further recovery in economic activity and producer prices.—AFP ■

Stock markets rise as US stimulus hopes offset China tensions

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Stock markets rose on Monday, boosted by hopes of a US stimulus package that helped to offset American-China tensions ahead of key trade talks this week.

At around mid-session, stock prices in London and Paris were 0.4 per cent higher, while Frankfurt stocks edged up by around 0.2 per cent.

Traders said investors are keeping a wary eye on China-US trade talks planned for the weekend, which come after Washington imposed sanctions on several Hong Kong officials, further straining tensions between the superpowers.

However, US President Donald "Trump has helped boost sentiment after signing an executive order to provide a fresh unemployment payment for those impacted by the coronavirus", noted IG analyst, Joshua Mahony.

Away from domestic policy, Washington has hit a group of Chinese and Hong Kong officials -- including the city's leader Carrie Lam -- with sanctions in the latest salvo in a row linked to Beijing's decision to impose a security law on the city. —AFP ■

Dept. stores push yukata as online pandemic party attire

TOKYO — Colourful kimono are synonymous with Tokyo summer celebrations but anti-coronavirus measures have put social gatherings off-limits and led struggling department

stores to push the traditional Japanese outfits as a way to make a virtual fashion statement. The Matsuya department store in the upscale Ginza shopping district is now selling



department store in Tokyo, as pictured on 21 July 2020. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

"Yukata" casual kimonos are sold at Matsuya Ginza

yukata with colorful floral collars to make them more eye-catching when worn during online video chats.

Online drinking sessions and other virtual parties are increasingly replacing in-person socializing as pandemic-isolated people try to stay in touch with friends and family.

"We want our customers to enjoy drinking at home without losing touch with Japan's yukata culture," said a yukata salesperson who works at Matsuya Ginza.

The pandemic has caused many summer festivals and fireworks shows in Japan to be canceled. At these events, men and women often wear yukata made of cotton, a traditional Japanese garment for the season. With sales of yukata dropping by half compared with last year due to the coronavirus, the department store run by Matsuya Co. is looking for ways to spark demand.

The store has also enhanced its lineup of "heko obi" sashes, which are made of soft fabric and can be easily tied. The Seibu department store in Tokyo's Shibuya district, a mecca for youth fashion and trends, has taken a different approach by proposing yukata as everyday wear, not just for summer events. —Kyodo News ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (263W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (263W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-8-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NORDCLAIRE VOY. NO. (032W/033E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NORDCLAIRE VOY. NO. (032W/033E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-8-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD.

11 AUGUST 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

How the world has reacted to Belarus presidential vote

PARIS (France) — Thousands of Belarusian demonstrators were met with a violent police response on Sunday night as they protested what they said was a fraudulent election, after long-serving incumbent Alexander Lukashenko claimed victory.

Here is how the world has reacted to the disputed vote on Europe's eastern frontier.

EU: 'count votes accurately'

From Brussels, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen urged Minsk "to ensure that the votes in yesterday's election are counted and published accurately."

"Fundamental rights in Belarus must be respected," the former German defence minister tweeted.

Von der Leyen, who heads the EU's executive arm, also criticized the crackdown on opposition demonstrators, saying "harassment and violent repression of peaceful protesters has no place in Europe".

A separate EU statement declared that "election night was marred with disproportionate and unacceptable state violence



A woman plays the violin while queuing outside the Belarusian embassy to cast her vote in the presidential election in Moscow on 9 August 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

against peaceful protesters."

Germany: 'strong doubts'

The EU's largest country Germany has "strong doubts – and from our point of view justified doubts – about the... conduct of these elections", Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert said. "Minimum standards for democratic elections were not met" and this was "not acceptable", Seibert added.

"The numerous reports of systematic irregularities and violations of electoral law are credible... the political leadership of the country must accept the will of its citizens," he said.

Poland: 'quest for freedom'

Belarus' largest EU neighbour Poland called for the bloc to hold an emergency summit on the country.

"The authorities have used force against their citizens, who are demanding change in the country. We must support the Belarusian people in their quest for freedom," Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said in a statement.

Latvia: 'support Belarus people'

Latvia, another of Belarus' EU neighbours that also once lay east of the Iron Curtain, also backed demonstrators.

"Protests in Belarus indicate that public opinion is not reflected in the preliminary election results," tweeted Prime Minister KrisjanisKarins.

"I support Belarus people's aspirations to live in a sovereign and democratic country with freedom of speech and assembly. I call on the government to refrain from the use of force."

Czech Republic: 'not free and democratic'

Czech Republic premier Andrej Babis called the police repression of Belarusian demonstrators "a type of action that has no place in current Europe".

"I condemn the police violence and the brutal assault on peaceful protesters in Minsk," Babic tweeted.—AFP■

Lebanon government on brink over blast fallout

BEIRUT (Lebanon) — Lebanon's government was teetering Monday as two ministers' resignations over the deadly Beirut port explosion threatened to snowball and protesters' fury on the scarred streets showed no sign of abating.

The under-fire cabinet, struggling to weather the political storm, was due to meet in the afternoon amid widespread demands for an end to an entrenched political system dominated by sectarian interests and family dynasties.

Six days after the enormous chemical blast, which wreaked destruction across swathes of the capital and was felt as far away as the island of Cyprus, residents and volunteers were still clearing the debris off the streets.

International rescue teams with sniffer dogs and specialised equipment remained at work at the disaster's fire-charred "ground zero", where the search was now for bodies and not survivors.—AFP ■

Six French tourists among eight killed by gunmen in Niger

NIAMEY (Niger) — Six French tourists and their local guide and driver were killed Sunday by gunmen riding motorcycles in an area of southwestern Niger that is home to the last West African giraffes, officials said.

It is believed to be the first such attack on Western tourists in the area, a popular attraction in the former French colony thanks to its unique population of West African or Niger giraffes.

"There are eight dead: two Nigeriens including a guide and a driver, while the other six are French," the governor of the Tillaberi region told AFP.

"We are managing the situation, we will give more information later," Tidjani Ibrahim Katiella said, without indicating who was behind the attack.

France's presidency confirmed that French citizens had been killed in Niger, without giving the number of dead.

French President Emmanuel Macron also spoke on the phone with his Niger counterpart Mahamadou Issoufou, the Elysee palace said.

A source close to Niger's environmental services said the

assault took place at around 11:30 am (1030 GMT) six kilometres (four miles) east of the town of Koure, which is an hour's drive from the capital Niamey.

"Most of the victims were shot... We found a magazine emptied of its cartridges at the scene," the source told AFP.

"We do not know the identity of the attackers but they came on motorcycles through the bush and waited for the arrival of the tourists."

The source said the tourists' vehicle belonged to the French humanitarian organization ACT-

The source also described the scene of the attack, where bodies were laid side-by-side next to a torched off-road vehicle, which had bullet holes in its rear window. Around 20 years ago, a small herd of West African giraffes, a subspecies distinguished by its lighter colour, found a safe haven from poachers and predators in the Koure area.

Today they number in their hundreds and are a key tourist attraction, enjoying the protection of local people and conservation groups. —AFP ■



A handout photo obtained by AFP on 9 August 2020 shows the car where six French tourists, their local guide and the driver were killed by an unidentified gunmen riding motorcycles on August 9, 2020 in an area of southwestern Niger.

PHOTO: AFP

China sanctions 11 Americans in retaliation for US move

BEIJING (China) — China on Monday sanctioned 11 Americans, including senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz, in retaliation for similar US moves prompted by Beijing's crackdown in Hong Kong.

Washington last week accused 11 officials of suppressing "freedom and democratic processes" in Hong Kong, including city leader Carrie Lam, and announced plans to freeze their US assets.

It was the toughest US action yet in response to Beijing's introduction of a sweeping and controversial new national security law for the territory.

Beijing said the measure was a violation of international law and "grossly interferes in China's internal affairs".

"China has decided to impose sanctions on some people that behaved badly on Hong Kong-related issues," foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said Monday, with Human Rights Watch director Kenneth Roth and National Endowment for Democracy president Carl Gershman also on the list.

Zhao did not give details of what the sanctions would entail.



(FILES) In this file photo taken on 5 May 2020 Sen. Marco Rubio, R-FL, speaks during a Senate Intelligence Committee nomination hearing for Rep. John Ratcliffe, R-TX, on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. He is among the 11 Americans sanctioned by China on 10 August 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

Republican senators Rubio and Cruz established themselves as two of the most vocal supporters of Hong Kong's democracy movement last year, when the city was convulsed by huge and sometimes violent protests.

Beijing has accused "external forces" of fomenting unrest and responded to the unrest by imposing the security law in late June, sending a political chill through the semi-autonomous finance hub.

Since then, the city's leaders

have postponed local elections, citing the coronavirus pandemic.

Authorities have also issued arrest warrants for six exiled pro-democracy activists and launched a crackdown on other activists. On Monday, Hong Kong media mogul Jimmy Lai, one of the city's most vocal Beijing critics, was arrested under the security law.

China-US clashes

The US measures come three months ahead of the No-

vember presidential election in which the incumbent Donald Trump, who trails his rival Joe Biden in the polls, is campaigning hard on an increasingly strident anti-Beijing message.

As public disapproval has grown for his handling of the pandemic, Trump has pivoted from his previous focus on striking a trade deal with China to blaming the country for the coronavirus crisis.

Washington and Beijing have sparred on multiple fronts in recent months, and both sides have already imposed sanctions on each other over China's mass internment of mostly Muslim minorities in Xinjiang.

Trump on Thursday ordered Americans to stop doing business within 45 days with popular Chinese apps WeChat and TikTok.

The order claimed TikTok could be used by China to track the locations of federal employees, build dossiers on people for blackmail and conduct corporate espionage. Zhao said Monday that Washington's Hong Kong-related sanctions "will only make the world more aware of US hegemony, bullying and double standards."—AFP



Bomb blast in Pakistani border town leaves at least 5 dead

ISLAMABAD — A bomb went off in a southwestern Pakistan city on Monday, leaving at least five people dead and 21 others injured, an official said.

"Five people were killed, and another 21 were injured in the powerful blast," Assistant Commissioner ChamanZakaullahDurrani said.—Kyodo News

Hong Kong media mogul arrested on collusion charges

HONG KONG – Hong Kong media mogul Jimmy Lai and six others were arrested Monday for alleged collusion with foreign forces under a sweeping national security law recently imposed by China.

The arrest of Lai, one of the most famous democracy activists and critics of the Chinese Communist Party in Hong Kong, is the highest-profile police operation yet using the security law, which entered into force in the territory on June 30.—Kyodo News

Afghan president signs decree to free 400 Taliban inmates

KABUL (Afghanistan) – President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani issued a decree on Monday to pardon and release about 400 controversial Taliban inmates, the Presidential Palace confirmed.

The palace tweeted that Ghani signed the decree late Monday evening for pardon of punishment of convicted Taliban prisoners, who are included in the 5,000 prisoners listed by the Taliban group. – Xinhua



This handout photo taken and released on 10 August 2020 from Indonesia's Centre for Investigation and Technology Development of Geological Disaster (BPPTKG) shows Mount Sinabung as it spews thick ash and smoke into the sky in Karo, North Sumatra. **PHOTO: AFP**

Indonesia's Mt. Sinabung blasts tower of smoke and ash into sky

MEDAN (Indonesia) — Indonesia's Mount Sinabung erupted Monday, belching a massive column of ash and smoke 5,000 metres (16,400 feet) into the air and plunging local communities into darkness with a thick layer of debris.

The volcano on Sumatra island has been rumbling since 2010 and saw a deadly eruption in 2016.

Activity had picked up in recent days, including a pair of smaller eruptions at the week-

There were no reports of injuries or deaths from Monday morning's blast, but authorities warned of possible lava flows and more eruptions.

"This is an alert for all of us to avoid red-zone areas near Sinabung," said ArmenPutera, a local official with Indonesia's Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation Centre.

However, the crater's alert status remained at its second-highest level.

No one lives inside a previously announced no-go zone around the volcano.

Small communities nearby were coated in a layer of thick ash as at least one village went from day to night in a matter of minutes.

"It was like magic -- when the ash came it went from being very bright to dark as night," said Rencana Sitepu, the head of Namanteran village, adding that some of the community's crops were destroyed by the fallout.

"The village went dark for about 20 minutes." The coronavirus pandemic complicated matters as scared residents violated safety rules.—AFP ■

SPORT



Officials from Ministry of Health and Sports inspect MNL camp quarantine centres in Yangon on 10 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNL**

MoHS inspects MNL camp quarantine centres in Yangon

THE Ministry of Health and Sports officials inspected the camp quarantine centres and preparations for 2020 MPT Myanmar National League (MNL) in Yangon yesterday.

MoHS's officials led by Deputy Director-General (Disease Control) Dr Thanda Lwin carried out the inspections of MNL teams' camp quarantine centres: Myanamr national teams' hostels and dining halls, players' bed rooms and dining halls of ISPE FC and Yangon United FC, Thuwunna Stadium and Yangon United Sports Complex (YUSC).

MNL's officials led by CEO U Soe Moe Kyaw explained the preparations to the MoHS officials. This is the MoHS's second inspection, according to the league's social media. —Kyaw Khin ■

Anderson 'still hungry' as he quashes retirement talk

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom)-James Anderson insisted Monday he was still "hungry" to play Test cricket after speculation the England great was considering retirement.

Anderson recently turned 38, an age where many previous pace bowlers would have long since retired.

Given his age, Anderson's meagre match haul of 1-97 during England's three-wicket win in the first Test against Pakistan completed Saturday inevitably led to speculation about his fu-

By his own admission, Anderson, England's all-time leading wicket-taker, "did not bowl very well" at his Old Trafford home ground, where one of the ends is named after him, as England went 1-0 up in a threematch series.

But the swing specialist,

whose 590 wickets are the most taken by any paceman in Test history, said he should not be written off after one poor game.

"I want to play as long as I possibly can," Anderson told reporters during a conference call on Monday.

"If I keep bowling the way I did this week, the opportunity to retire will be taken out of my hands. It will be a selection issue," he added ahead of Thursday's second Test at Southamp-

"I'm still hungry to play the game. I think the frustration for me this week was that, after one bad game....the sort of whispers (about retirement) that go around, I don't think that's really fair."

'Emotional'

Reflecting on his own performance in the first Test, Anderson said: "It's one of those

things, everyone has a bad game, every now and then.

"I've not bowled very well and felt out of rhythm. For the first time in probably 10 years I got a little bit emotional on the field, got a bit frustrated, let it get to me a little bit.

"It reminded me of when I first started playing, when you get frustrated and a little bit angry you try to bowl quicker and quicker and it doesn't help.

"Hopefully, I can show people I've still got what it takes to play Test cricket."

Anderson, a veteran of 154 Tests, added: "I don't think it's the toughest period of my career. I'm sure I'll have another bad game in my career.

"I just don't want every time I have a bad game for there to be whispers going round that I'm going to pack

Anderson is now in sight of becoming the first pace bowler to take 600 Test wickets and overhauling the England Test appearance record of 161 held by retired former captain Alastair Cook, one of his best friends in cricket.

"I want to be bowling well and contributing to England winning games of cricket," said Anderson. "That's been my focus throughout my career and will continue to be my focus.

"If I get 600 wickets then great; if I don't, then I'm happy with what I've got."—AFP ■

Over 60% of Olympic volunteers worry about anti-coronavirus measures

A man walks past an Olympics logo in front of the Tokyo metropolitan government building on 20 March 2020. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**



TOKYO —More than 60 per cent of volunteers registered for next summer's Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games are worried about how anti-coronavirus measures will be implemented and the format of the events, according to a recent survey by the games' organizers.

In a multiple-answer question to volunteers at the venues and athletes' village on what concerns them about their upcoming role, those who were worried about the anti-virus steps and how the games will be held accounted for the largest number at 66.8 per cent.

The online survey was conducted between July 1 and 21 on about 80,000 volunteers, of which approximately 26,000 responded.

The organizing committee had said it has agreed with the International Olympic Committee to hold a "simplified" games partly to secure the safety of the athletes, and that the games would be held at the same competition venues and under the same schedule as planned before the postponement. Reducing the number of spectators remains a possibility, but has yet to be finalized.

Before the outbreak of the virus, the Tokyo Olympics were originally slated to be held between July 24 and Aug. 9 this year. They are now scheduled from July 23 to Aug. 8, 2021, to be followed by the Paralympics between Aug. 24 and Sept. 5.

The survey also found that 21.5 per cent of respondents said they may no longer volunteer for the games due to the impact of the pandemic on their studies and job situation.

Asked in another multiple-answer question about what they are working on in the leadup to volunteering at the games, 57.6 per cent said physical fitness, while 57.2 percent cited learning English and other foreign languages.— Kyodo News ■



England's James Anderson plays a shot on the third day of the first Test cricket match between England and Pakistan at Old Trafford in Manchester, north-west England on 7 August 2020. PHOTO: AFP